

Remarks and Arguments

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-24 and 26-30 were presented for examination. Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11-14, 16, 18, 21-24, 26 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over PCT Patent Publication No. WO 2002/100037 (Shen, previously cited) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,171,567 (Bayer.) The examiner comments that the Shen reference discloses all of the claimed limitations with the exception that it does not disclose computing a document identifier that is related to, but cannot be derived solely from, the encrypted content of that document. However, the examiner asserts that the Bayer patent shows the step of computing a document identifier as the combined value of the disclosed RespondentID, the ViewerID, the SurveyID and the ContentID. The examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Shen and Bayer to provide an improved system for protecting information over the Internet.

The Shen reference was discussed in detail in a previous response filed on January 31, 2007. As noted in that response and by the examiner, there is no disclosure in Shen that the encrypted documents are stored at the download site in encrypted form together with document identifiers that are computed for each document using the encrypted document content for that document but which cannot be derived solely from the encrypted content of that document.

The Bayer patent discloses an automated survey system in which a survey participant registers with the survey system and receives a respondent ID and viewer software, which, when installed, generates a unique viewer ID. When a survey participant is invited to participate in a survey, a server in the system sends encrypted survey information with a content ID to the participant. After the participant receives the encrypted information, he or she sends a request for a decryption key back to the server. The request includes the respondent ID, the viewer ID, the survey ID and the content ID. If the IDs in the request match those stored on the server, the server returns a decryption key that allows the viewer to decrypt and display the survey information.

Thus, the Bayer patent teaches a system in which a request to obtain access to encrypted content results in a download of the encrypted content to a user's computer together with pre-computed ID information. This ID information is then returned to the content publisher where the content publisher verifies the ID information and downloads a decryption key. This system operates because the content recipient has been pre-registered with the publisher and the ID information is all pre-computed. For example, the respondent ID in Bayer is computed in the survey server and assigned to a respondent at the time that the respondent is invited to participate in surveys (See Bayer, column 7, lines 5-11). Consequently, it is not related to the survey content.

Similarly, the viewer ID is computed at the time when the viewer is installed in the respondent's computer and registered with the server (Bayer, column 7, lines 24-39.) Accordingly, it is also not related to the survey content. The survey ID is a unique identifier for a survey (Bayer, column 4, lines 59-61). There is no indication in Bayer that the Survey ID is computed from the survey content. Finally, the content ID is generated at the time that the content is encrypted (Bayer, column 6, lines 21-31). Note that the content ID is not generated from the encrypted content since an administrative server generates the content ID before encryption and then provides the content ID and the unencrypted content to an encryption server that actually encrypts the content and the content ID (Bayer, column 6, lines 21-27.) Thus, the content ID is more akin to a universal identifier. Therefore, none of the IDs generated in the Bayer patent are computed from the document (survey) content.

Therefore, neither the Shen reference nor the Bayer disclose computing a content ID in the viewer from the encrypted content in such a manner that the content ID cannot be solely determined from the encrypted content. Therefore, the combination of these two references cannot teach or suggest this step since neither reference teaches or suggests it. It is important that the document identifier can be computed from the document content, because the encrypted document content, the decryption keys and the content server itself are all downloaded to an unsecure site as set forth in the present specification starting at page 17, paragraphs 73-76. A client, who has access to the encrypted content (but not directly to the decryption key necessary to decrypt the document) can then use this encrypted content to compute a document

identifier (OID). The OID can then be used at the local content server to retrieve the decryption key.

Independent claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to make it clear that the document identifier is computed from the encrypted document content. For example, claim 1 now recites, in lines 7-9, "...at the publishing site, computing for each document a document identifier that is computed from, but cannot be derived solely from, the encrypted content of that document..." Consequently, claims 1, 11 and 21 patentably distinguish over the cited combination of references. Claims 2-4, 6 and 8 are dependent on claim 1 and are thus, also allowable. Claims 12-14, 16 and 18 are dependent on claim 11 and are thus, also allowable. Finally, claims 22-24, 26 and 28 are dependent on claim 21 and are allowable.

In light of the forgoing amendments and remarks, this application is now believed in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If the examiner has any further questions regarding this amendment, she is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below. The examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or direct any payment under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17, 1.16 to Deposit Account number 50-3969.

Respectfully submitted

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